

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (previously presented) An agitator, comprising:
a continuous metal axle;
a pulley held on one end of said metal axle, said pulley including
a metal D-nut;
a sleeve of lightweight plastic material received over said metal
axle wherein said sleeve is cylindrical in shape having a diameter no greater
than 22.00 mm.
2. (original) The agitator of claim 1, wherein said sleeve carries a
cleaning structure.
3. (original) The agitator of claim 2, wherein said cleaning structure
is selected from a group consisting of a beater bar, a brush, tufted bristles, a
wiper and combinations thereof.
4. (original) The agitator of claim 1, wherein said axle has a
diameter between about 4.00 mm to about 8.00 mm.
5. (original) The agitator of claim 1, wherein said pulley includes a
hub for securing to said axle.
6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The agitator of claim 1, wherein said pulley includes a pair of projecting box ribs and said sleeve includes a pair of projecting flanges for receiving said box ribs.
8. (original) The agitator of claim 7, wherein said sleeve also includes a collar and a pair of projecting lugs for engaging in a cooperating pair of slots in said pair of box ribs.
9. (original) The agitator of claim 8, wherein said collar includes a pair of slots for receiving said box ribs.
10. (original) The agitator of claim 9, wherein said pulley includes a projecting hub and said collar includes a gap for receiving and holding said hub.
11. (currently amended) An agitator and drive gear assembly for a vacuum cleaner, comprising:
- an axle;
 - a pulley held on said axle;
 - a sleeve received over said axle; and
 - a drive gear having a stub shaft; and
- said pulley including a mounting fixture for engaging a said stub shaft of a said drive gear.

12. (currently amended) The agitator and drive gear assembly of claim 11, wherein said pulley includes a pair of projecting box ribs and said sleeve includes a pair of projecting flanges for receiving and engaging said box ribs.

13. (currently amended) The agitator and drive gear assembly of claim 12, wherein said sleeve also includes a collar and a pair of projecting lugs for engaging in said pair of box ribs.